

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 HA-05 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /096 W

-----040538 110817Z /21

P R 110756Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2819

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7070

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, KS, US

SUBJ: EXPECTATIONS FOR PRISONER RELEASE ON AUGUST 15 HIGH

1. DISSIDENTS EXPECT A SIGNIFICANT RELEASE OF EM PRISONERS ON AUGUST 15. IT HAS BECOME CLEAR TO CHURCH LEADERS AT KNCC FROM REPORTS RECEIVED FROM MANY RELATIVES OF PRISONERS THAT ROKG HAS BEEN GATHERING SIGNATURES FROM WIDE SPECTRUM OF EM PRISONERS ON STATEMENTS SIMILAR TO THOSE USED PRIOR TO RELEASE OF SUCH PRISONERS IN THE PAST. IN ADDITION KNCC SOURCES REPORT THAT ROKG HAS SOUGHT AND RECEIVED STATEMENTS FROM REV YI HAE-HAK, AND EM-4 VIOLATORS SUCH AS YI HYUN-PAE, YU IN-TAE, KIM HYO-SUN AND Y KANG-CHOL, PRISONERS THE ROKG HAD SEEMED RELUCTANT TO CONSIDER RELEASING BEFORE.

2. OVER THE LAST SEVERAL DAYS MEMBERS OF THE FAMILIES OF SOME PRISONERS HAVE BEEN ENGAGING IN A HUNGER STRIKE CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF ALL "PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE". THE MEETING APPARENTLY FORMED PART OF A BROAD STRATEGY OF PRESSURE ON THIS ISSUE DEVISED EARLIER IN THE YEAR. MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS MUN TONG-HWAN, MUN IK-HWAN AND

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FORMER PRESIDENT YUN PO-SUN HAVE PLAYED A ROLE IN ORGANIZING AND SUPPORTING THE EVENT. SINCE A NUMBER OF THE FAMILIES INVOLVED ARE AWARE THAT THEIR IMPRISONED RELATIVES HAVE ALREADY SIGNED STATEMENTS, AND THAT ROKG USUALLY RESISTS OPEN PRESSURE, IT WOULD APPEAR RISKY ON FAMILIES' PART TO MOUNT THIS DRAMATIC PROTEST ON THE EVE OF THE POSSIBLE RELEASE OF THEIR

KIN. HOWEVER, THEY DO HAVE A DEEP SEATED DISTRUST
OF THE ROKG, AND THEY MAY FEEL THAT THEIR PROTEST IS
NECESSARY TO ASSURE THAT THE ROKG ACTS IN ACCORD WITH
THE SIGNALS IT HAS GIVEN. HUNGER STRIKE HAS, OF COURSE,
RECEIVED NO PUBLICITY IN KOREA.
GLEYSTEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978SEOUL07070
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780328-0694
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780873/aaaacjbt.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 15cbf264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1766866
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EXPECTATIONS FOR PRISONER RELEASE ON AUGUST 15 HIGH
TAGS: SHUM, PINS, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/15cbf264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014